US Army Corps of Engineers
New York District

ENGINEER SCHOOL / FORT TOTTEN

FACT SHEET **DECEMBER 2007**

DESCRIPTION…….
The Department of Defense (DoD) acquired Fort Totten, a 146.75 acre property, between 1857 and 1943, for the coastal defense of Long Island Sound and the eastern entrance to the East River. Fort Totten also served as a post-Civil War hospital, an engineering school, and a training site for West Point Cadets. The Department of the Army conveyed 9.6 acres of the property to the U.S. Coast Guard, while still retaining ownership of the remaining 137.5 acres. This Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) project is limited to the excessed portion (9.6 acres) of Fort Totten presently owned by the U.S. Coast Guard.
The Fort Totten FUDS is located on the current U.S. Coast Guard Station in northeast Queens County, Long Island, New York. The facility is situated on a peninsula extending out into Little Neck Bay and the East River Portion of Long Island Sound.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT……..
The Fort Totten site is located in New York's 5th district.

AUTHORIZATION……..
The Fort Totten FUDS is being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act or 1986 authorized that program.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS……
Remedial Investigation (RI):
The upland portion of the Ft. Totten FUDS has been the subject of several previous investigations, dating back to 1986. USACE initiated a comprehensive Remedial Investigation (RI) in 1997 to determine the nature and extent of the contamination reported in earlier studies.

Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI):
A supplemental investigation was conducted in summer 2004 to address data gaps and questions raised by state regulators regarding the upland areas and indoor air at Building 615. This investigation represents the final phase of the remedial investigation project conducted under the USACE's FUDS program.
Some elevated levels of metals and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) were detected in the upland portion of the FUDS. Groundwater results indicated that the FUDS may not be appropriate for use as a potable water source for residential consumption.
The sample results for the indoor air at Building 615 indicated that there were no elevated concentrations of mercury. No further investigation of the indoor air is warranted. During the collection of indoor air samples, a floor drain was discovered. It was determined that the floor drain in Building 615 does not discharge into Little Bay and does not contain mercury at concentrations that would volatize into the building. Additional work will address concerns regarding a drywell/vault at the end of the Building 615 pipe.

STATUS……
Additional Work at Building 615:
An investigative excavation of the areas suspected to be the T-joint and end of drain pipe was performed. 3 septic tanks, 1 active sewage line, and the suspected end of floor drain were located during the excavation. Soil samples were taken and analyzed for mercury.

Elevated levels of mercury in soil were detected in area between the 2 septic tanks closest to building. Indoor soil sample results were within state mercury level limits for commercial land use. It was determined that the drain pipe did not connect to septic tanks. Suspected end of drain pipe is soil in area of elevated mercury level sample. Additional work includes continuing soil excavation of elevated mercury level sample area to approximately 2 feet or until levels within limits for commercial land use is reached. Then the excavation is to be lined with vinyl, backfilled with clean fill, and repaved.

Focused Feasibility Study (FFS):
A FFS has been performed to address the soil contamination at the Fill Area section of the Fort Totten FUDS. This FFS uses data and conclusions from the Fort Totten RI Report and the SRI of the Upland Area. Based on the analysis of risk/hazards and receptors, the contaminant of concern is lead and the media of concern is soil. The FFS evaluates remedial alternatives to address soil contamination. This FFS is currently being finalized. The recommended remedial alternative will be protective of human health and the environment and meet the requirements of state and federal agencies.

Background Soil Study:
A background soil study will be performed and results will be utilized in the determination of a final remedy at the Fort Totten site. The results will be analyzed to determine if Fort Totten soil SVOC and metals concentrations are similar to surrounding local areas.

LITTLE BAY RECORD OF DECISION / BIOTA SAMPLING:
The SRI and all other upland area studies are separate from previous work involving water, sediment and aquatic life in Little Bay, which was completed as required under the FUDS program. These investigations found no significant concentrations of mercury in Little Bay's ecosystem. USACE issued a No Further Action Record of Decision (ROD) in 2003 calling for follow-up sampling three years after the ROD to confirm the previous results.
The confirmatory Little Bay biota sampling effort was conducted in September 2006 to fulfill the requirements of the ROD. This effort included finfish and shellfish tissue sampling, comparing concentrations of mercury found in these samples with those from the earlier samples, and confirming that levels remain comparable to previous results. Mercury levels in 2006 Little Bay biota sampling effort have been confirmed to be comparable to those of 2003 sampling effort. No further action is warranted in Little Bay.

Current Issues:
- Perform background soil study
- Finish additional work at Building 615
- Finalize Uplands Focused Feasibility Study (FFS)

Future Planned Activities:
- Perform selected FFS remedial alternative

PROJECT COST……

Estimated Federal Cost		$3.5M
Estimated Non-Federal Cost		$0
	Total	$3.5M

CONTACT…….....
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